



Children's Sunday
on Pentecost
June 8, 2025

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

Congregational 1633-1636
United Church of Christ
Garden and Mason Streets
Cambridge, Massachusetts

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...

Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

We're glad you are worshiping with us today! First Church is a vibrant, multi-generational, engaged, urban church. We care a lot about each other and what's happening in the world around us. Wherever you are on the journey of faith, you are welcome here.

June 8, 2025

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL
389 YEARS
ON THE WAY
1636 – 2025

Liturgists	Campbell Pelton-Cairns, Eliza Clark, and Azalea Clark
Leading Worship	Sarah Higginbotham, <i>Director of Communications & Christian Formation</i> Mike Solberg, <i>Interim Senior Minister</i> Peter Sykes, <i>Music Director</i>
Assisting in Worship	Laurie Friedman, <i>Clerk</i> Lee Prouty, <i>Facilities Manager</i> Mary Martha Thiel, <i>Deacon</i>
Bulletin Cover Image	flames mosaic created by First Church children from a design by Perry Neubauer

Today's Programs and Events

9:15 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
10:00 a.m.	Adult Formation: Conversation with Amani Mataboro Tom, Harter Room and via Zoom
11:00 a.m.	Hybrid Multigenerational Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
12:15 p.m.	The First Church Musicale, Margaret Jewett Hall

New to First Church?

Have you just begun joining us for worship? Consider filling out a **welcome card** found on small clipboards in the pews or [online](#), so that we might connect with you about our community.

Give to First Church

You can give electronically by using the QR code in the bulletin or explore more options for giving at: www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give

Contact a Pastor or Staff Member

Find [contact information](#) for our ministerial, program, and building staff on our website.
For general information and inquiries: info@firstchurchcambridge.org

Minister On Call

If you have an urgent pastoral need, please call 617-547-2724 ext. 222. Your call will be routed to a First Church minister based on a rotating schedule that covers staff time off.

Have a church program or event to promote?
Complete the [First Church Communications Request](#) form.

Have an edit or update for our website?
Complete the [FCC Website Changes](#) form

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Come, God Creator, Holy Spirit

J. S. Bach

*HYMN 217

Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Campbell Pelton-Cairns

- L: Let us gather with God to sing out our praise!
C: **Praise to the Spirit, who breathes life into our church community.**
L: Praise God, who blessed our grandparents and their grandparents.
C: **Praise to the Spirit, who pours out grace and blessing on our children and their descendants.**
L: God is good! Grown-ups and children, sing out your praise!
C: **God is good, all the time! All the time, God is good! Amen!**

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Walk Together, Children

Spiritual

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION AND SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- L: Let us pray for healing, pardon, and peace.
All: **Gracious God,
we have not loved you or each other with our whole hearts.
Forgive us, we pray, and lead us toward wholeness,
that we may be filled with your joy.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

- L: The peace of Christ be with you!
C: **And also with you!**

*HYMN 228

O Holy Dove of God Descending

**You are invited to stand. Hymns preceded by a "C" are found in the beginning section of the hymnal. This section contains hymns written and composed by current and past members of First Church in Cambridge.*

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

INVITATION

Mike Solberg

ADDRESS

BAPTISMAL PROMISES

*CONGREGATIONAL PROMISES

Mary Martha Thiel

- L: Jesus Christ welcomes everyone who desires new life
into the faith and family of Christ.
Do you who will witness this sacrament
promise Savyon and Lilia your love, support and care?
- C: We do!**
- L: Will you help them to grow in faith
and witness with them to the love and mercy of Christ?
- C: We will, with the help of God!**
- L: Do you renew your own promises
to live in the freedom of Christ, and resist the power of evil?
- C: We do, with the help of God!**

POURING AND BLESSING OF THE WATER

THE BAPTISMS

Savyon Huntington Stewart
Lilia Valentine Stewart

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- L: Beloved in Christ, let us give thanks!
- All: We thank you, God,
for these precious lives entrusted to our care,
and for the waters of baptism that mark us as your people.
Thank you for the gifts your Spirit gives us in this sacrament,
and for life in the church where we help each other grow.
Give to Savyon and Lilia strength for life's journey,
courage in the time of trial, the joy of faith, the freedom of love,
and the comfort of everlasting life.
These things we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*PRESENTATION

OPENING THE WORD

AN INTRODUCTION TO IMPROVISATION

Sarah Higginbotham

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

All: Come Holy Spirit, and speak to us now.
Open our ears to receive your wisdom;
open our hearts to receive your truth;
transform our lives by your power and grace.
Amen.

A GODLY PLAY STORY

The Mystery of Pentecost

drawn from the stories of the Tower of Babel, the Ascension, and the Day of Pentecost

*HYMN 373

We Are Your People

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

Eliza Jane Clark
Colin Anthony McCarty

CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHER RECOGNITION

Godly Play

Nancy Cyr, Will Erickson, Lisa McCarty, Lauren Yockel

Bible 101

Mark Destler, Jan Jeffers Lo, Marianne Jensen, Lindsay Ludwig, Alex Steinert-Evoy

Our Whole Lives

Laurie Friedman, Phil Servello-Jones, Laurie Williams

Youth Group Leaders

Lindsey Baker, Phil Servello-Jones, Heather Stewart

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Laurie Friedman

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please pray this prayer in words most meaningful to your heart.

**All: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Eliza Clark

*Our offering supports the many ministries of our church,
with 10% for missions in the community and beyond.
Please use our new [all-in-one link](#) for gifts from your
bank account or by credit/debit card:*



OFFERTORY

Veni Creator Spiritus

Chant, harmonized P. Sykes

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, the source of life and birth,
Praise God, the Word who came to earth,
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame,
All glory, honor to God's name! Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Azalea Clark

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 439

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

BLESSING OF 2025 GRADUATES

High School

Hannah Erickson, Graham Funck, Campbell Pelton-Cairns, Erik Stauffer, Savyon Stewart

College

Kevin Benitez (First Church Shelter work study student), Ella Simons

Graduate School

Erin Aslami (First Church Shelter work study student), Megan Lo, Olivia Olafsson

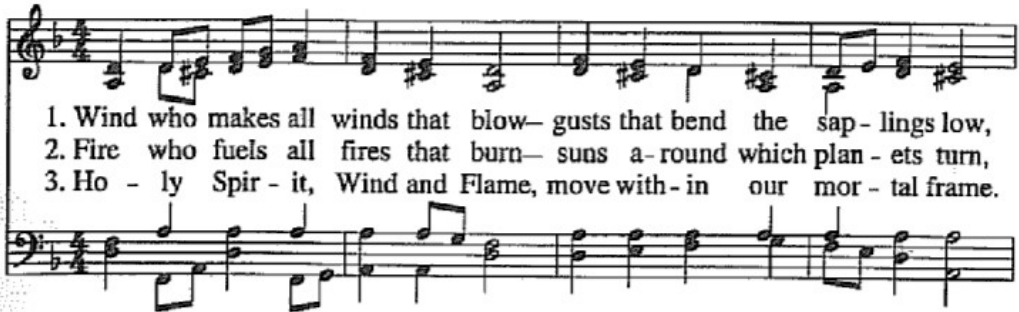
BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

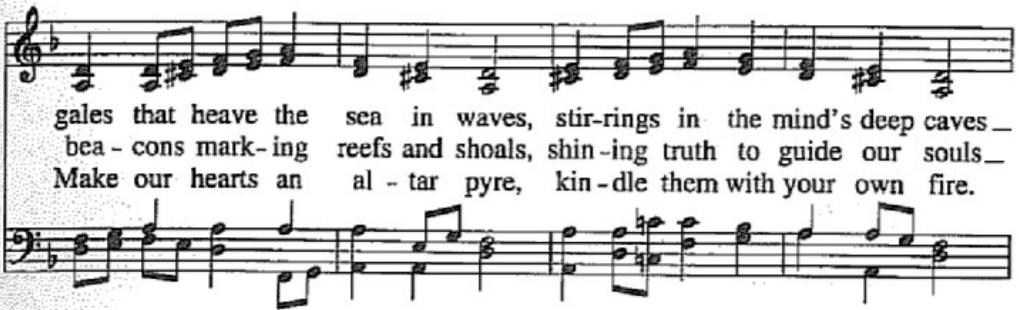
Come, Holy Spirit

J. S. Bach

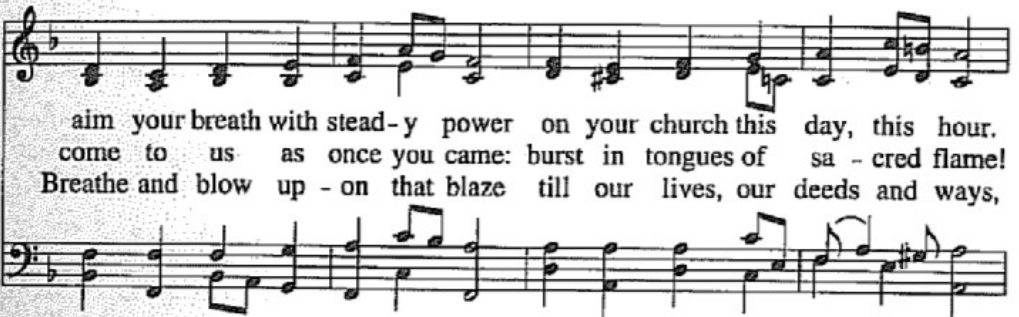
Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow 217



1. Wind who makes all winds that blow— gusts that bend the sap- lings low,
 2. Fire who fuels all fires that burn— suns a- round which plan - ets turn,
 3. Ho - ly Spir - it, Wind and Flame, move with - in our mor - tal frame.



gales that heave the sea in waves, stir-rings in the mind's deep caves—
 bea - cons mark-ing reefs and shoals, shin-ing truth to guide our souls—
 Make our hearts an al - tar pyre, kin - dle them with your own fire.



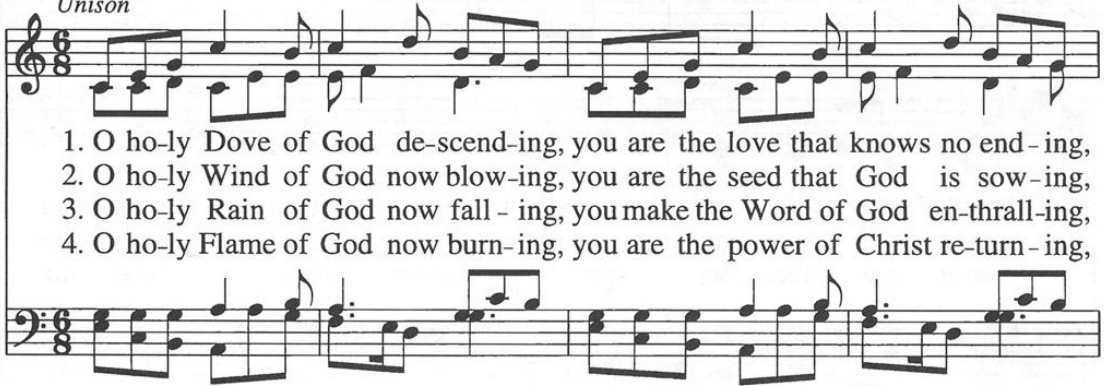
aim your breath with stead - y power on your church this day, this hour.
 come to us as once you came: burst in tongues of sa - cred flame!
 Breathe and blow up - on that blaze till our lives, our deeds and ways,



Raise, re - new the life we've lost, Spir - it God of Pen - te - cost.
 Light and Pow - er, Might and Strength, fill your church, its breadth and length.
 speak that tongue which ev - ery land by your grace shall un - der - stand.

O Holy Dove of God Descending

228

Unison


1. O ho-ly Dove of God de-scend-ing, you are the love that knows no end-ing,
 2. O ho-ly Wind of God now blow-ing, you are the seed that God is sow-ing,
 3. O ho-ly Rain of God now fall - ing, you make the Word of God en-thrall-ing,
 4. O ho-ly Flame of God now burn-ing, you are the power of Christ re-turn - ing,



all of our shat - tered dreams you're mend - ing: Spir-it, now live in me.
 you are the life that starts us grow - ing: Spir-it, now live in me.
 you are the in - ner voice now call - ing: Spir-it, now live in me.
 you are the an - swer to our yearn - ing: Spir-it, now live in me.

WORDS and MUSIC: Bryan Jeffery Leech, 1976

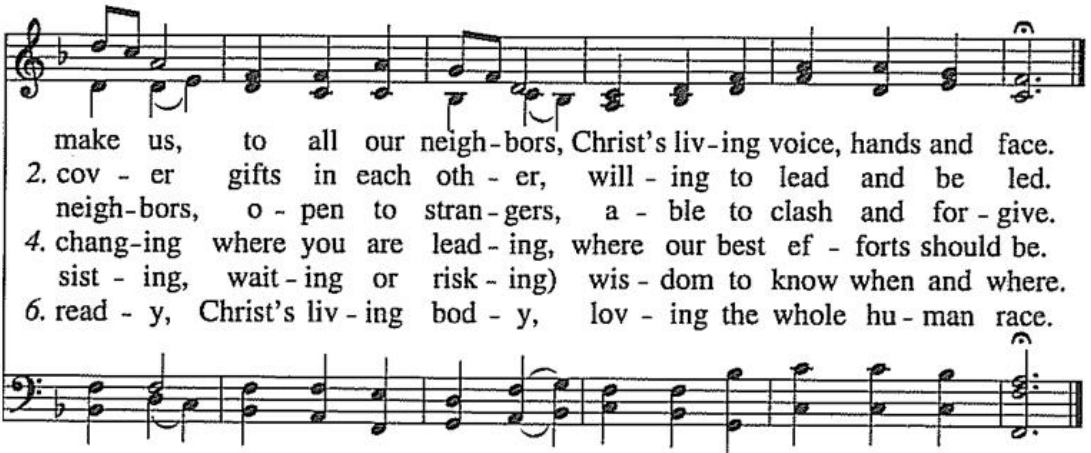
LOIS
99.96

373

We Are Your People



1. We are your peo - ple, Spir - it of grace, you dare to
 2. Joined in com - mu - ni - ty, trea - sured and fed, may we dis -
 3. Rich in di - ver - si - ty, help us to live clos - er than
 4. Glad of tra - di - tion, help us to see in all life's
 5. Give, as we ven - ture jus - tice and care (peace-ful, re -
 6. Spir - it, u - nite us, make us, by grace, will - ing and



make us, to all our neigh-bors, Christ's liv-ing voice, hands and face.
 2. cov - er gifts in each oth - er, will - ing to lead and be led.
 neigh-bors, o - pen to stran-gers, a - ble to clash and for - give.
 4. chang-ing where you are lead - ing, where our best ef - forts should be.
 sist - ing, wait - ing or risk - ing) wis - dom to know when and where.
 6. read - y, Christ's liv - ing bod - y, lov - ing the whole hu - man race.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1973, rev. 1994
 MUSIC: Margaret R. Tucker, 1986

MEETING HOUSE
 54.557

CLOSING HYMN

439 Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Refrain



Ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing in my



heart I will pray. Yes, ev - ery time I feel the

Fine



Spir - it mov - ing in my heart I will pray.




1. Up - on the moun - tain, when my Lord spoke, Out of God's
2. O Jor - dan riv - er is chil - ly and cold, it chills the
3. O I have heart - ache and I have woe, and I have



mouth came fire and smoke. Looked all a - round me,
bod - y, not the soul. There's on - ly one train
trou - ble here be - low. But while God leads me,

to Refrain



it looked so fine, I asked my Lord if all were mine.
up - on this track; it runs to heav - en, then right back. O ev - ery
I'll nev - er fear, for I am shel - tered by God's care.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We rejoice with Kate Layzer and Don Johnson at the birth of their first grandchild Alejandra Katherine Rothenberg, born on Sunday, May 25, to parents Marlene and Sam Rothenberg.
- We pray for Holly Marple as she stays with family in VT during an extended housing transition.
- We lift up the Harvard University community, including people from our congregation, in the midst of a confrontation with the federal government over academic independence and freedom of speech.
- We pray for all who are living with significant health challenges and their families and caregivers: Poppy Coffin, who is experiencing Alzheimer's Disease; Carter West, who is experiencing a chronic neurological disorder; and Keith Manville, who has atypical Parkinsonism. We also pray for those in treatment for cancer: Betsy Opitz; Louise Higginbotham, Sarah's mother; Dana Hunt, Claire Morgan's mother; Ellen Smith, Devin Hansen's aunt; Judith Semmler, Alice Napoleon Jones's mother; Karen Anne Zee's daughter Becky Collet and her son-in-law Stewart Bailey; and Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters.
- We pray for the thousands of people who have been detained and/or illegally removed from the US without due process, including Marcelo Gomes, a Milford High School student detained on his way to volleyball practice; the dozens of people on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket detained on their way to work; and the many who are being detained at their immigration hearings. We pray for their families, and for all those who are living under the daily threat of detention. We pray for the future of our democracy, as we witness alarming abuses of power.
- We pray for all those who are experiencing economic uncertainty in these times of change and upheaval, especially as federal budget negotiations reflect the real potential for devastating cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and the SNAP program, among other vital supports for those in need.
- During this Pride Month, we continue to celebrate the dignity and worth of our trans and gender non-conforming siblings who are experiencing an onslaught of prejudicial discrimination condoned by the current administration. We affirm that all of us are beloved in the eyes of God, just as we are.
- We pray for those injured in a hateful, antisemitic attack on a peaceful gathering in Boulder, CO.
- We pray for people around the world trapped in cycles of violence and war, especially in Gaza, where people are starving; in Ukraine; in the Democratic Republic of Congo; and in the Kashmir region of India and Pakistan.
- We continue to pray for our earth and for all creation in the face of the climate crisis.



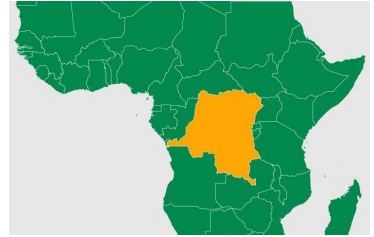
In Memoriam

A celebration of the life of First Church member George Battit will take place on Friday, June 27, at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and via livestream. You can read about George in his [online obituary](#).

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

Adult Formation: Conversation with Amani Mataboro Tom Today, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m., Harter Room and via Zoom

Join First Church friend Amani Mataboro Tom to hear how the violent situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo continues to unfold, and how the search for critical minerals has been fueling the conflict.



Children's Sunday on Pentecost

Today, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., Sanctuary and via livestream

On the second Sunday of June, it is our custom to celebrate the children's formation programs of the church in a Children's Sunday worship service. This year, Children's Sunday coincides with our celebration of Pentecost, and we mark the birthday of the church in a joyful service for all ages, infused with the Spirit!

The First Church Musicale

Today, 12:15 - 1:45 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

Do we think First Church has got talent? Of course we do! To prove it, we're bringing back an old favorite: The First Church Musicale! All ages are invited to gather in Margaret Jewett Hall for an indoor picnic luncheon, followed by a time of sharing our creative talents with one another.



Invitation to Contribute to Coffee Hour

Please help us make worship as delicious as it is spiritually sustaining! For Coffee Hour each week we are looking for 2-4 households to bring 3 dozen cookies each, or the equivalent of snacks such as cheese & crackers or fruit.

In general, the church has a No Nuts policy. If possible, please include a brief list of relevant ingredients for those with allergies.

[**SIGN UP HERE.**](#) Questions? Difficulty with the online signup?

Contact Lisa DiNardo at: ladinardo@hotmail.com.

JUNE AT FIRST CHURCH



Young Adults: Breakfast Before Church

Sunday, June 15, 9:45 - 10:45 a.m., Felipe's in Harvard Square

Join our active young adults group (20s and 30s) for a casual breakfast and conversation before we walk over for Sunday worship service. This event is open to anyone in the age group, whether you're just exploring First Church, or have been here a while and are looking to meet some new folks. Please RSVP

so we know to expect you. To learn about upcoming events, email: youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org

Parsonage Working Group Update

Sunday, June 15, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m., Harter Room and via Zoom

Drawing on the work begun by the Assets Group three years ago, the Parsonage Working Group has spent several months exploring the best ways to utilize the asset of the 44 Garden Street property and ensure long-term housing support for our lead minister. Based on the rich discussions in a series of listening sessions over the past month, the working group is finalizing options for what to do with the Parsonage that will be presented at the Special Congregational Meeting on June 22. They will hold one final session on Sunday, June 15, at 10:00 a.m. that will provide an opportunity to discuss the options they will be recommending and to ask detailed questions even before the June 22 meeting. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!



Juneteenth Worship

Sunday, June 15, 11:00 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., Sanctuary and via livestream

Gather with us for Morning Worship on Sunday, June 15, to honor Juneteenth. With leadership by our Beloved Community team, we will be remembering and honoring our ancestors who were enslaved by others at First Church, speaking the names of those who are known to us at this time. We will also be blessed by our *Wade in the Water* art installation, which honors by name these enslaved ancestors, and we will recommit to our God-given work of collective liberation. Join us for this important celebration of survival, resistance, and resilience.

Intergenerational Field Games

Sunday, June 29, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Church lawn and Cambridge Common

Join us on the lawn (weather permitting) following worship for relay-races, group improv games, and other field day activities. We will start alongside our first summer outdoor Coffee Hour. All ages and abilities welcome! Questions? Talk to Casey Marsh (kc.marsh103@gmail.com).



SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 22, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Margaret Jewett Hall and via Zoom

All members, as you are able, are asked to attend a special congregational meeting at a key point in our pastoral transition. We'll receive the report of our Discovery Team about who we are and what we're heading for as a church. We'll also affirm the membership of our Pastoral Search Committee, receive important information about our finances, and hear proposals for the future of the Parsonage. Lunch will be served, and childcare will be provided. Come, and participate in the life of our community as we journey together in faith.

Call to Special Congregational Meeting

Notice is hereby given that a Special Congregational Meeting of First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, United Church of Christ, will be held in its 390th year at 12:30 p.m., Sunday the 22nd of June 2025, in person in Margaret Jewett Hall and via Zoom conference for the following purposes:



1. To receive the report of the 2025 Discovery Team
2. To affirm the membership of a search committee for the next settled minister of First Church
3. To hear recommendations from the Parsonage Working group on the future of 44 Garden Street, and
4. To receive a financial update from the Treasurers for the current fiscal year.

No other business may legally come before the meeting.

By direction of the Executive Council,

Laurie Friedman, Clerk
Cambridge, Massachusetts
April 29, 2025

WAYS TO SERVE AND BE SERVED

Seeking Church School Teachers for 2025-26

First Church has a lively and varied Church School program for children in PreK through high school that relies on volunteer teachers to be successful. Accompanying our youngest members on their journey of spiritual formation is an opportunity to live out the promise we make at each baptism to “help them grow in faith.” All lesson plans and leader guides provided, as well as support from Sarah! We have openings for teachers in the following classes/groups:

- **Godly Play**, a Montessori-inspired curriculum of storytelling and wondering for PreK-1st graders and 2nd-4th graders
- **Middlers**, a book and Bible study for 5th graders
- **Bible 101**, a two-year introduction to the Bible for 6th & 7th graders (they will be in Year B: New Testament)
- **Confirmation**, a one-year curriculum preparing our 8th & 9th graders leading to an affirmation of faith and the choice to join as members of First Church
- **Youth Group**, a variety of fun and formational activities for 8-12th graders

If you'd like to learn more, please reach out to [Sarah Higginbotham](#), who would love to talk with you!

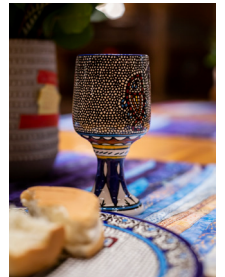


Youth Greeters Wanted

The Deacons extend an invitation to our younger members to help greet and give a warm welcome to folks at the beginning of worship on Sunday mornings! If your child or teen (age 7 and up) would like to participate in greeting on a Sunday morning, please use [this form](#) to sign up. Questions? Contact: deacons@firstchurchcambridge.org

Deacons Offering Home Communion

In 2024 the Board of Deacons spent time focused on Communion, its theology, and its place in the life of the church. They developed a Service of Communion, similar to the one used monthly at First Church, and they now extend an offer to bring it into the homes of the members and friends of First Church. If you wish to receive such a visit, please contact: deacons@firstchurchcambridge.org





THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, June 9

4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom

Sign up [here](#) to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

Wednesday, June 11

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom

3:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Committee, via Zoom

7:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, Harter Room

See our [Events Calendar](#) for Zoom links and details.

Friday, June 13

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)

Have a church program or event to promote? Complete the [First Church Communications Request form](#).

Sunday, June 15 - Juneteenth Sunday

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

9:45 a.m. Young Adults: Breakfast Before Church, Felipe's in Harvard Square

10:00 a.m. Parsonage Working Group Update, Harter Room and via Zoom

11:00 a.m. Multigenerational Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream

12:15 p.m. Refreshments in MJH



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